THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) According to the information available, no application for grant of freedom fighters's Pension is pending with the Government for more than five years.

(b) Aggrieved with the decision of the Central Government in rejecting their applications for grant of pension, the applicants keep on submitting representations/review petitions for reconsideration of their cases. Such cases are considered, if the applicants furnish additional information/documentary evidence in support of their claim. Further, the Government has set up a Special Audit Team (SAT) under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary in-charge of the Freedom Fighters Division with two prominent freedom fighters as Members; for assisting the Government in expeditious disposal of pending cases.

Steps to curb bomb blasts in capital

67. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken/ contemplated steps to curb the recent spurt in incidents of bomb explosions in the capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have decided to accede to Delhi Government's demand for entrusting police to the Delhi Government for betterment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) The situation arising out of series of bomb blasts in the National Capital during the current year has been reviewed and it has been decided that there is a need to improve the intelligence gathering system through a better coordination between police and intelligence agencies and also to seek closer public participation in detecting such bombs and apprehending the culprits.

(c) In accordance with the existing Constitutional framework, the matters relating to "police" and "public order" in the National Capital Territory do not fall within the pruview of the Legislative Assembly of Delhi.

Hostages kidnapped in Kashmir and Assam

68. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the latest information with Government in respect of the whereabouts of the four westerners kidnapped and kept as hostages by militants in Kashmir about two years back and Sanjay Ghosh abducted sometime back in Assam by ULFA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): Government have no confirmed information about the precise whereabouts or condition, of the 4 foreign nationals abducted from Kashmir Valley in July 1995, who continue to remain untraced despite efforts.

In the case of Sanjay Ghosh abducted in Assam in July 1997, though there have been some reports about his death, but in the absence of any final proof it is not possible to declare him dead in the legal sense. A CBI enquiry has been ordered into the matter and investigation is going on.

Central legislation to check up militancy

69. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Mnister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the latest game plan of Pakistan's intelligence agency (ISI) to launch a fresh offensive to step up militancy in J&K, Punjab, Delhi and adjoining States besides making efforts to step up smuggling of narcotics and also to flood Indian markets with fake currency, as